

SENATE RESOLUTION

8722

By Senators Llias, Fain, King, Keiser, Benton, Nelson, Frockt, Jayapal, McCoy, McAuliffe, Fraser, and Habib

1 WHEREAS, Joan M. "Joni" Earl is retiring from her position as
2 Chief Executive Officer of Sound Transit after leading the agency for
3 fifteen years; and

4 WHEREAS, Ms. Earl's prior government experience as Deputy County
5 Executive of Snohomish County, City Manager of Mill Creek, and
6 Director of Internal Management and Chief Fiscal Officer of Kitsap
7 County together made her uniquely suited to pay attention to both the
8 big picture and the financial bottom line, and she brought to Sound
9 Transit laser-sharp business sense and drive for results; and

10 WHEREAS, From the time she was named Acting Executive Director in
11 January 2001 and made Executive Director six months later, Ms. Earl
12 instilled an agency culture of accountability and transparency around
13 doing public projects; and

14 WHEREAS, In her 15 years leading Sound Transit, the agency
15 evolved to become one of the nation's leading transit agencies; and

16 WHEREAS, Ms. Earl and her leadership team dramatically
17 restructured the way Sound Transit manages major projects, which by
18 2003 led to the restoration of \$500 million in federal funding for
19 building the initial segment of the Link regional light rail system;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Link light rail service opened between Seattle and Sea-
22 Tac Airport in 2009; and

1 WHEREAS, As Sound Transit's CEO and throughout her public
2 career, Ms. Earl has forged important partnerships, working
3 closely with elected and community leaders at all levels and
4 across political aisles, in particular with the late
5 Representative Ruth Fisher, after whom the Sound Transit board
6 room is named; and

7 WHEREAS, Sound Transit's regional system of ST Express
8 buses, Sounder trains, and Link light rail will provide more
9 than 41 million rides this year, improving the economic and
10 social health of central Puget Sound, home to 40 percent of the
11 state's population, 70 percent of our state's economic activity,
12 and 97 percent of our state's congestion; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Earl's extraordinary vision and leadership
14 provide a legacy for generations to come, truly leaving Puget
15 Sound communities and our economy better than she found them,
16 and we are grateful for her remarkable contributions to the
17 state of Washington; and

18 WHEREAS, Ms. Earl's service is marked not only by her
19 accomplishments, but also through the dignified way she treated
20 her coworkers, employees, and the community;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
22 Senate recognize and congratulate Ms. Joni Earl for her lifetime
23 of outstanding public service, and for her dedication to
24 transparency and accountability in doing the public's business;
25 and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
27 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Ms.
28 Earl and to the Board of Directors of Sound Transit.

29 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
30 do hereby certify that this is a true and
31 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8722,
32 adopted by the Senate
33 March 4, 2016

34 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
35 Secretary of the Senate